

left, to a great extent, to his own discretion, as to the manner in which he shall perform his task.

Is it economy to keep up such a large business with a vast daily outlay on laborers, of whom many are without skill or experience, and not a few entirely indifferent as to whether their work is well done or not, and to refuse to expend any means, or more than a mere pittance in the preparation and enriching of the soil, for the instruction of the laborers, for the convenient arrangement of the fields, for good seed and efficient implements of culture, and for an intelligent and careful oversight of this great interest, keeping an account of receipts and disbursements, seeing to the employment of proper operatives and necessary tools, to the right adjustment of tasks according to the capacity of each, to a faithful tillage, to the prevention of waste and losses, to judicious experiments, and the full summing up each year of progress and results?

Permit me to suggest, in all kindness, to each member of the Assembly, to imagine that this Common School system, involving infinite hopes, was his own interest, or one for whose success he was personally responsible to God and to posterity, and to survey its position, operations, wants and prospects with such a feeling? Would any one, in such a position, think for a moment of curtailing the present too feeble means bestowed on its management? Would he for an instant hesitate about the expenditure of a few hundred dollars more to supply sinews to those who spend day and night in toil, and study and care, to give it system, energy and efficiency, resorting to every possible and impossible device to accomplish without money, what money alone will do?

Considering the magnitude of the interests at stake; considering the character of the times, and feeling as I do that I am responsible to God, not only for what I do, but for what I recommend to others to whose hands the destinies of the State are in part committed, I cannot refrain from a solemn appeal to the members of the General Assembly, equally attached as we are all to that goodly land which a bountiful Pro-